

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 22-26 are pending in this application, claims 19-21 having been currently cancelled. Said claims are presented for reconsideration.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim a preferred aspect of their invention. Thus, the limits of claim 26 have been incorporated into claim 15. Moreover the dyestuffs of formula (1) according to claim 15 have been defined more precisely by deleting formazan from the meanings of the radical A. Additionally, in claim 26 the radicals of the formula (8a) and (8b) have been deleted. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15-20, 22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Phillips et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,936,073. Additionally, claims 15 to 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same reference.

Reconsideration is requested in light of the amendment *supra* and the following remarks.

Phillips et al. is directed to formazan dyestuffs of his formula (I). The teaching of said reference does not go beyond the said dyes. Since formazan dyestuffs have been excluded from the presently claimed invention, the above rejections are considered to have been overcome.

Claims 15-20, 22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichert et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,989,297.

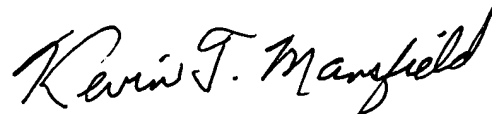
The instantly claimed tris-reactive dyes of instant formula (1) are distinguished from those of Reichert by the bridging member B and the reactive radical T. Applicants aver that, in light of these multiple and substantial differences, Reichert et al. would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the instantly claimed dyes.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-20, 22 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichert et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,989,297, is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 15-18 and 22-26 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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